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A TREATISE ON THE INJURIES OF THE HEAD.

To which is added,

OBSERVATIONS ON THE SCROFULA,

Popularly, but improperly called,

THE

KING'S-EVIL.

By JORDAN ROCHE, Surgeon.

DUBLIN:

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1872, Sept. 16.
Gift of
Saml. A. Green, M.D.
of Boston.
(H.U. 1851.)

TO

GEORGE CLEGHORN, Esq.

LECTURER OF ANATOMY, IN TRINITY-COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

SIR,

ERUDITIO ſimilis eſt coronæ aureæ, quæ honorem ſimul cum pretio conjunctum habet.

SIMILITUD. DEMOPH.

A Gentleman univerſally eminent in MEDICAL SCIENCE, ought to be diſtinguiſhed.

I am,

SIR,

With the higheſt eſteem,

Your moſt obedient Servant,

DROGHEDA,
March, 1784.

JORDAN ROCHE.

following cases, &c. in order to induce others of the same profession to coincide in the same principles, as each have powerful advocates for their respective *theory* and *practice*.

The result of practice, fairly and candidly exhibited, seems to be the best and only impartial method of leading to precision, in the treatment of the several injuries, to which the head is liable

In many injuries of the head, success may take place, though very opposite methods have been adopted, which may furnish people of lively imaginations with materials for system-building; when in fact the success, of which

which they make the foundation of their fabric, is often owing to the powers of nature.

We are much indebted to the labour and induſtry of the ancients; and to derogate from them would be the height of ingratitude---" Vos exemplaria Græca " nocturna verſate manu, verſate di- " urna-----incredibilis induſtria, dili- " gentiæ: ſingularis."

Tho' it may appear extraordinary that two of the moſt eminent Surgeons of the age, ſhould purſue a very different mode of acting in the treatment of the injuries of the head:--- yet we cannot conclude that it proceeds from ambition or oppoſition; the ſacrifice would be too great, and it is uncandid to ſuppoſe that Gentlemen of

ſuch diſtinguiſhed eminence and humanity, could be influenced in the leaſt to act upon any other principle, than a deſire of improving their profeſſion for the good of ſociety.

Mr. Deaſe has publiſhed a treatiſe on wounds of the head, which has gained him much honour, both at home and abroad. The ſtrictures of this Ghntleman upon Meſſrs. Pott and Bromfield, (as I have been informed) have met with the approbation of the moſt learned and eminent men of the profeſſion.

Arguments derived from practice and experience, carry always with them irreſiſtible weight and force. If Gentlemen, who commit their thoughts to paper, for public view, would adopt the

the maxim of Locke, much unintereſting controverſy would be avoided; and truth and knowledge would become much eaſier of acceſs. If we look, ſays that celebrated author, into books of controverſy of any kind, we ſhall there find, that the effect of obſcure equivocal terms is no more, than diſputation about ſounds, without either convincing or improving the underſtanding.

Mr. Pott's theory and practice, in ſome ſpecies of the injuries of the head, are founded upon the free communication, that ſubſiſts between the veſſels of the dura mater, which is carried on by means of innumerable *foramina*, found in all parts of both ſurfaces of the ſkull, as well as at

the

the ſutures; and that upon the freedom of this communication, depends the healthy and ſound ſtate of all the parts concerned therein; and that from the interruption or deſtruction of this communication, proceed moſt of the ſymptoms attending contuſions of the head; extravaſations of fluid between the cranium and dura mater; inflammations of the ſaid membrane, *&c.* ---That by external accident, *&c.* ſome of the larger of theſe veſſels, which carry on the communication between the dura mater and the ſkull, are broken, and a quantity of fluid is ſhed upon the ſurface of that membrane.------That when the neceſſary and mutual communication between all the parts ceaſes, the pericranium is detached from the ſkull; the dura mater ſeparates from

from the inſide of the cranium, inflames and ſuppurates.

From theſe principles it is evident that a more frequent uſe of the trepan is meant to be eſtabliſhed:---But being aware of the arguments that might be made againſt him, he adds, ---Although ſome would undergo an unneceſſary operation, ſuch an eſtabliſhed rule would contribute to ſave many an uſeful member to ſociety.

Mr. Deaſe has been often ſurpriſed at the number of patients, who died in conſequence of wounds of the head, apparently the moſt inconſiderable, where the ſkull has been either laid bare, or the injury done extended no further than the external table. This

Gentlemen

Gentleman is of opinion, that the inflammation and putrefaction of the dura mater, are not in general the cauſes of death in ſuch injuries; the dura mater, being a ſtrong ligamentous membrane, and firmly attached to the ſkull, ſeems not to be ſo eaſily affected, being a fitter medium to tranſmit any ſhock it receives to the brain, than oppoſe it; for upon diſſection he found the cauſe of death in the ſuppuration of the pia mater or brain, but more generally in both.

When a perſon receives a ſtroke upon the ſkull with a blunt inſtrument, or the head, by any accident, ſhall be oppoſed to a ſolid body, with any conſiderable degree of violence, the part affected becomes contuſed; if the accident

accident has not been ſo ſevere as to cauſe any of thoſe ſymptoms, which are indicative of the depreſſion of the ſkull, concuſſion or extravaſation, the contuſion in general is either ſlightly treated, or totally neglected. The conſequence of which will probably be, that the obſtruction, ariſing from the contuſion, will *gradatim* produce inflammation, which by conſent and connection of parts, will extend, producing heat and putrefaction, which will at length derange and deſtroy the texture and adheſion of the fibres and veſſels underneath, *uſque ad cerebrum*, and hence will ariſe the moſt dangerous ſymptoms.

That the ſeparation of the dura mater, from the internal ſurface of the

the ſkull, (when it takes place) proceeds from what has been juſt obſerved, ſeems conſonant to reaſon; for it does not coincide in any manner with it, that a ſtroke or contuſion, can ſuddenly deſtroy the coheſion, and intimate attachment of the dura mater to the internal ſurface of the cranium.

The perforation of the head is a very dangerous and operoſe proceſs, and ſhould not, as I apprehend, take place, but where the indications are notoriouſly evident, and where no other method can poſſibly ſucceed.

To have recourſe to the trephine as a preventative, would be often unneceſſary.---The practice is irreconcila-

ble

ble with the feelings of humanity.---- *Ad extremos morbos extrema remedia ad amuſſim optima.*

During fourteen years practice in the populous town and Neighbourhood of Drogheda, I was frequently employed, and called to injuries of the head; and I may openly declare without the leaſt imputation of vanity, that my practice has been very ſucceſsful.

When I found that the ſtroke, or accident was ſevere, had ſtaggered, or brought the perſon to the ground, and had produced tumour, nauſea, or vomiting, I made an inciſion upon the part contuſed, or dilated the contuſed wound, if neceſſary, and preſcribed the *antiphlogiſtic* regimen; thus the inciſion has

has anſwered as a drain or iſſue, and I am perſuaded, has prevented thoſe dangerous, and often fatal events which have been the conſequence of ſuch neglected caſes.—*Nullum capitis Vulnus contemnendum.* I have been frequently called to caſes, where I had reaſon from the phænomena to conclude, the preſence of extravaſation; notwithſtanding, in conſequence of evacuations, dilution, ſaline mixture, with the aſſiſtance of an iſſue on the part, I have happily ſucceeded, without the uſe of the trephine; in which however, I ſhould have had the beſt authorities for my ſupport.

As to the diviſion of the pericranium from the ſkull, (abſtractedly) I never found any inconvenience there-

from.

from. " Has it not, says Mr. Deaſe, been a practice recommended by far the greater number of both ancient and modern authors, in many diſeaſes of the head, to open fontanels by the actual cautery over the ſutures, and that on account of the free communication, which exiſts between the interior veſſels and thoſe of the dura mater? have they not ordered thoſe iſſues to be kept open even for years? is not this practice received and ſtrenuouſly recommended by Mr. Bromfield, who has experienced the moſt ſalutary effects from them, founded on the ſame principle? have we, in their ſeveral works, a ſingle inſtance of thoſe iſſues being productive

productive of an inflammation or ſuppuration of the dura mater, although it evidently appears there muſt be a total deſtruction of all thoſe exterior communicating veſſels, and that in ſubjects, it may be well ſuppoſed, of no good habit of body."

It is evident that there is a wide difference between the nature of iſſues, made as above, and receiving a contuſion, or contuſed wound with a heavy blunt inſtrument. In the former the wound is properly treated, the matter being daily abſorbed by proper dreſſings; hence not confined, or ſuffered to diffuſe itſelf, or become putrid, or to impart its malignancy to the *infra* ſituated parts.—Therefore the veſſels of the dura mater remain uninjured,

uninjured, eſpecially, as a ſingle inſtance of theſe iſſues being productive of inflammation or ſuppuration of the dura mater has never been produced.

Van Sweiten, whoſe knowledge of the animal œconomy, and extenſive intelligence in every branch of medical ſcience, will be denied only by thoſe, who are unacquainted with his commentaries on the aphoriſms of the celebrated Boerhaave, was not unmindful of the danger that attends a lodgment of matter, or extravaſated blood upon the pericranium, which, ſays he, ſends forth veſſels to the bones of the cranium, and alſo receives veſſels from theſe bones, whereby it is connected to them; ſo that the vital influx

and

and efflux of the juices, to and from the bones of the cranium, and eſpecially their exterior table, depends on the ſound ſtate of the perioſtieum :------ This perioſtieum being therefore injured, will readily communicate the diſorder to the bones of the cranium, and alſo to the dura mater, *&c.*

Hippocrates, impreſſed with true ideas of the danger of contuſion, obſerves :-------- " *Carnem enim contundunt, maturant et lacerant, et ſub hujuſmodi telis vulnera et latera in orbem oliquantulum cava et purulentia magis redduntur ; et humida & longiori tempore repugnantur; carnes enim contu-*

ſas

ſas & laceras neceſſe eſt in pus verſas tabeſcere."

Van Sweiten relates, that a certain perſon was ſtruck with a pewter pot over the right parietal bone; no fiſſure could be diſcovered in the bone: he walked, and was apparently very well, till ten months afterwards, he was taken with a vertigo in walking, and expired in a little time. After opening the cranium in the affected part, the bone and the dura mater were found perfectly rotten and fœtid.

The above gentleman was called to a carpenter in a fever, who, having none of the ſymptoms, common to the epidemical one that raged, and not be-

ing able to detect any cauſe thereof, after a careful examination, was put altogether at a ſtand, ſince there were ſymptoms enough to make it evident, that ſome malignant cauſe lay concealed. He had a conſiderable pain in his head; his forehead, eyebrows, and both eyes were ſwelled, and looked red; and he complained of a tenſion in the nape of his neck, and his ſleep being much interrupted,---he was aſked, if his head was hurt by any external cauſe, which he denied; even though he told him a ſecond time, that he ſuſpected ſome ſuch thing. By good luck, a ſervant ſtanding by, remembered that eight days before, a tile fell upon the patient's head, but from a ſmall height; the patient ſaid, it was

ſo,

ſo, but that he had hardly any pain from it, and affirmed, he did not perceive any uneaſineſs from it afterwards; ſo that he reluctantly permitted his head to be examined. A ſmall wound was found ſcarce larger than a pin's-head, and a contuſion diſcovered ſo broad, that it was an inch over. Van Sweiten immediately ordered the integuments of the part affected to be divided; on the next day the fever was much abated, and all the ſymptoms were much milder. The part was afterwards deterged by a mild ſuppuration, and the patient ſoon recovered.

According to Mr. Pott's theory, (ſhould a ſimilar caſe now happen,) it would be inferred that the dura mater

had been inflamed, detached, &c. and perforation would conſequently be made,---if the patient ſurvived, he would have been conducted through an unneceſſary and dangerous proceſs, and there would thence iſſue another proof to ſtrengthen this practice.

If (ſays Van Sweiten) there is any collection of matter, the wound is to be dilated by inciſion, and it will be alſo neceſſary to deterge or cleanſe the parts: for the whole malignity of ſuch a wound will ariſe from the extravaſated humours, being confined by the thick ſkin of the head, and not being capable of diſcharging itſelf by the too narrow orifice of the wound, which will occaſion it to make way into the cellular membrane,

membrane, or elſe, by ſtagnation and corrupting, it may affect the pericranium and bones of the ſkull itſelf. A dilatation of the wound will therefore give vent to the extravaſated and confined humours, and at the ſame time, make way for the application of deterging medicines. That the humours are thus confined, may be known from the narrowneſs of the mouth of the wound, and from the looſeneſs and tumour of the adjacent integuments, eſpecially if the wounded patient has a fever, for which no other cauſe can be found.

Hippocrates in ſumming up the wounds of the head, which require inciſion, ſays; " Quæ non ſatis idoneam habent longitudinem & latitudinem, qua perſpici poſſit, numquid os

a telo

a telo male affectum fuerit, &c. & ubi vulnera obliquam quandam cavitatem habent, cavum illud late incidere oportet, &c.---& ubi vulnera orbiculata, & admodum cava fuerint, ejuſmodi quoque incidere oportet, ut circulari plagain longum bifarium diviſa vulnus longum efficiatur." The enlarging or dilating of a contuſed wound is beſt and ſafeſt effected by inciſion, becauſe the dilatation made the by ſwelling of lint, &c. as it obſtructs the mouth of the wound for ſome hours, ſo that nothing can be diſcharged, therefore humours and abſceſſes will be formed.

CASE I.

Concussion *and* Contusion.

I was ſent for to the aſſiſtance of a Farmer in the neighbourhood, who had

had been brought home to his houſe ſenſeleſs, in conſequence of a fall from his horſe. He frequently puked; upon examination, I found the ſcalp upon the left parietal much contuſed. I made an inciſion upon the part, but could not diſcover either fiſſure or fracture; he was let blood copiouſly, he being a ſtrong man in the 40th year of his age. He was emptied by clyſters, and laxative powders of rhubarb, ſal polychreſt and nitre, and put upon the following julep.

R. ſal abſynthii drachmam unam, ſuc. limon. q. ſ. peracta efferveſcentia aq. hord. ſemi-libram ſpir. mynd. unciam. ſyr. limon. drachmas ſex adde, capiat cochl. duo horis tertiis.

He

He was plentifully ſupplied with whey and barley water; he was occaſionally bled, and did not perfectly recover his ſenſes until the 20th day. In about a year after, the oppoſite ſide became paralytic.

Doctor Alexander Monro obſerves in the 35th page of his Obſervations on the Structure and Functions of the Nervous Syſtem, that the right and left ſides of the ſpinal marrow are divided from each other by deeper fiſſures than have been deſcribed by many late writers, or that the right and left ſides of it are leſs intimately connected than is commonly imagined. From attention to this circumſtance, we are in ſome degree enabled to explain the cauſe why one ſide

ſide of the body is much palſied, whilſt the other preſerves its powers unimpaired, or to underſtand the cauſe of hemiplegiæ.

It has been obſerved by very learned and experienced Phyſicians and Surgeons, that very bad fractures attended with very alarming ſymptoms, have frequently done well, without having recourſe to trepanning; for why may not a fractured or fiſſured bone of the ſkull unite again in ſome caſes, as well as other bones of the body?

Ruych, who had ſeen many caſes of this nature in his many year practice in a populous city, ſays, that in fractures of the ſkull, where the ſymptoms

ſymptoms are neither violent nor increaſing, one ought not immediately to proceed to terebration. But after opening a vein, and applying warm cephalic fomentations, the cure ought to be attempted, and adds, that he had thus happily cured many, who were almoſt under the operation.

" Antiquores medicos, (ſays he) in omni fiſſo vel fracto oſſe, ſtatim ad ferramentam veniſſe, quibus id exciderent: ſed multo melius eſt ante emplaſtra experiri, quæ calvariæ cauſa componuntur, *&c.*---ſi autem caruncula increſcere cœperit, & febricula aut ſoluta fuerit aut levior, et cupiditas cibi reverterit, ſatiſque ſomni accedat, in eodem medicamento erit perſeverandum hæc ratione ſæpe rimæ

rimæ callo quodam implentur; eſtque eo oſſis velut cicatrix & latius fracta oſſa, ſi qua inter ſe non cohærebunt, eodem callo glutinantur; eſtque id aliquanto melius velamentum cerebro quam caro, quæ exciſo oſſe increſcit. Si vero ſub prima curatione febris intenditur, breveſque ſomni, & iidem per ſomnia tumultuoſi ſunt, ulcus madet, neque alitur, & in cervicibus glandulæ oriuntur, magni dolores ſunt, cibique hæc faſtidium increſcit, tum demum ad manum ſcalprumque veniendum eſt."

CASE II.

FRACTURE *and* CONCUSSION, *&c.*

A Brewer, by the ſudden falling of a heavy iron beam, was knocked down.

He

He complained of his head, and puked frequently. There was a wound, which originated about an inch above his eyebrow, and terminated on his cheek. By the tact I discovered an extensive fracture, for by gently pressing upon the orbiter process, the upper end of the fracture became elevated, and vice versa. This man was about forty years of age; he was frequently bled, put upon the antiphlogistic regimen, and soon recovered without any operation.

At the time, the above man was under my care, a child about six years old, was brought to me from the country. The child had received a kick of a horse upon the left temple.

temple. There was a chaſm made in the bone, through which the pulſation of the brain was apparent. The child got well, without any operation.

CASE III.

Concussion *and* Contusion.

A gentleman in the neighbourhood of Drogheda, of a groſs habit, in the fortieth year of his age, was thrown from his horſe, coming from the races of Bellewſtown.---He was brought home in an inſenſible ſtate. A phyſician and an apothecary were ſent for, the Gentleman was bliſtered, and he took ſome medicines. The ſymptoms increaſing to an alarming height, he was given up. I made an inciſion

ciſion upon the part contuſed, evacuations were made, and the Gentleman recovered.

CASE IV.

Concussion *and* Contusion.

A ſervant maid a few months ago, fell down ſtairs. The back part of her head was firſt oppoſed to a ſolid obſtacle; ſhe puked immediately, was much ſtunned, and complained of a violent pain in her head. She was bled freely, got a clyſter, and ſaline mixture. There was a large tumour upon the upper part of the os occipitale. I made an inciſion upon it. There was a great diſcharge of extravaſated blood, but neither fracture or fiſſure. The wound was lightly dreſſed, and ſhe was

was put upon the antiphlogiſtic regimen. The pain of her head continued a long time; at length ſhe got well, having however loſt the ſenſe of ſmelling.

In the Commentaries of Heurnius it is obſerved, that injuries of the occiput have been frequently attended with the loſs of taſte and ſmelling.

CASE V.

CONCUSSION *with* TUMOUR.

A few months ago, a young man fell backwards, from a ladder, placed almoſt perpendicularly; the back of his head came firſt to the pavement; he puked immediately, and continued

ſenſeleſs

ſenſeleſs till morning. There was a large tumour upon the back of his head. In conſequence of inciſion, a large quantity of extravaſated blood was diſcharged. He was freely bled, put upon the antiphlogiſtic regimen, and ſpeedily recovered.

CASE VI.

Vertigo *and* Contused Wound.

A Gentleman was knocked down by a ſtroke of a thick ſtick. He was much ſtunned, and his head gave him much uneaſineſs. He was bled, and evacuations were made. On the third day, not finding himſelf better, I was ſent for. There was a contuſed wound of the ſcalp upon

upon the upper and middle part of his forehead. When he walked, he ſtaggered, and complained of a giddineſs. An inciſion and evacuations were made, and he was ordered the ſaline mixture. There was no fracture or fiſſure; a mild ſuppuration took place, and he quickly recovered.

CASE VII.

Concussion *and* Tumour.

A Weaver knocked his foreman down with a poker, who remained ſenſeleſs a few minutes; he often puked. There was a tumour upon the upper part of the right os parietale. An

inciſion was made, evacuations preſcribed, &c. and he recovered.

By making inciſions in caſes of conſiderable contuſions, and injuries of the ſkull, I am perſuaded much danger, and fatal conſequences have been prevented. The conſequence of the inciſion, conſidered abſtractedly, is of very little inconvenience. It guards againſt the poſſibility of any danger ariſing from confined matter, or extravaſated blood, which often occaſion tumours, abſceſſes convulſions, and corruption of the bone and its pericranium. &c.

We find from the obſervations of learned men, that concuſſions of the brain

brain rupture its veſſels, while the ſkull remains entire, and that from xtravaſation follows an affection of its functions, which will be in proportion to the violence of the concuſſion. Van Sweiten informs us that Bochnius inſpecting the body of a girl, ſixteen years old, who died the fourth day after a fall, in order for him to report the cauſe of her death to the judges; could not obſerve any effects of violence in the head, though ſhe bled plentifully out of the noſe and mouth after the fall, while living; and even ſome time after ſhe was dead. But upon opening the ſkull, and raiſing the brain, he found a branch of the right carotid ruptured.

CASE VIII.

Fracture *with* Depression.

John Waters, aged about twenty years, received a ſtroke of a ſpade, edgeways, upon the upper part of the os occipitale, by which he was knocked down, and remained ſenſeleſs for ſome minutes. Next day he came to town, and informed me of the accident: he had puked; his head was much affected; two gentlemen of the faculty attended. We diſcovered an extenſive fracture with depreſſion, upon the ſuperior part of the os occipitale, in conſequence of which, it was judged neceſſary that I ſhould make two perforations, by which I was enabled to raiſe thirteen fragments of bone.

He

He was bled occaſionally, put upon the antiphlogiſtic regimen, and recovered.

CASE IX.

Fracture *and* Depression.

A ſmith, was knocked down by a ſtroke of a loaded whip, in conſequence of which he puked, and was brought to town. The pain of his head was very acute. There was an extenſive fracture with depreſſion, upon the left ſide of the os frontale. Three Surgeons were preſent, when by means of perforation I removed every impediment. There was a fiſſure, which paſſed over the coronal ſuture into the temporal bone. It

was

was agreed to leave this circumſtance to nature. The patient perſevered in the antiphlogiſtic regimen, *&c.* and recovered. One of the gentlemen, an advocate for opiates, was indulged, and the man got a few doſes of the antimonial opiate, according to Mr. Bromfield.

CASE X.

Fracture *and* Depression.

Mr. Dempſy, aged about 22 years, received a blow of a ſtone, which knocked him down. I was ſent for, and found his pulſe quick and high, his head ached ſeverely, and he was not able to leave his bed. He frequent-

ly

ly brought up the contents of his ſtomach. His right eye was cloſed and ſwollen; above which, about two inches, there was an extenſive fracture with depreſſion, part of the temporal bone was concerned. Perforations were made, evacuations and the antiphlogiſtic plan perſevered in, until a perfect cure took place.

CASE XI.

Fracture *and* Depression.

---Kelly of Herbertſtown, a farmer near fifty years old, received a kick from a horſe, whereby his ſkull was fractured a little above his right eyebrow. Robert Caddell of Herbertſtown, Eſq. directed me to be ſent for.

for. In conſultation it was agreed to perforate, in order to remove the bones that were beat in upon the brain; the greater part of the orbiter proceſs came away. He was enjoined the Antiphlogiſtic regimen, and ſoon recovered.

CASE XII.

Fracture *and* Depression.

A Labourer, aged about 22 years, was accidentally thrown down, and his forehead came firſt againſt the pavement, in conſequence of which, there was a ſmall contuſed wound upon the part. He was brought to an apothecary, who applied the bloody future ſo frequently that he guarded againſt

againſt any poſſibility of air getting into the wound. In three days after, I was deſired to ſee him; his eyes were cloſed and puffed, his face was red and ſwollen, his pulſe high and quick, his tongue foul, his ſkin dry and warm, and he felt a continual thirſt.

Three of the Gentlemen of the faculty attended; there was a conſiderable fracture and depreſſion in the centre of his forehead. I performed the operation, and evacuations were occaſionally made, in conſequence of which he recovered.

CASE XIII.

John Mc. Can, aged about 24 years, was knocked down by a ſtroke of

of a ſpade edgeways. He was brought ſenſeleſs into the adjacent houſe, and put to bed; I was immediately ſent for by the direction of Thomas Pepper of Ballygarth, Eſq. The man was totally inſenſible; his eyes were cloſed and ſwelled, his pulſe was ſmall and quick. There was a chaſm, which extended from the middle of the os frontale to the upper part of the os parietale: it was almoſt five inches in length. The brain was oozing forth. After bleeding him plentifully, I removed as many fragments of bone, as I could come at, for many were buried in the ſubſtance of the brain. I ordered him a clyſter, in conſequence of which, there was a plentiful diſcharge of bile. He came a little to himſelf; I ordered him to get another clyſter

clyſter to be given him in a few hours, and ſent him a ſaline mixture, with Myndererus's ſpirit. The next day, Mr. Delahoyde came with me; we found him convulſed. He was now ſenſible. On removing the dreſſings, many ſmall particles of bone came forth with a large diſcharge of the brain. He was bled again, ordered clyſters, and took his ſaline mixture tertiis horis.

The fifth day, the diſcharge of the brain and ſpaſms ceaſed; a fungus began to riſe, about the 15th day, which we ſuppreſſed in its progreſs, by means of gentle preſſure, and prepared ſponge; with which we prevented the of progreſs pullulating fleſh, and the fungus gradually diſſolved away, exfoliation took

took place and he recovered, and is now in perfect health.

When this man found his head and ſtomach affected, he called for a clyſter, in conſequence of which, he had a bilious diſcharge, and got eaſe.

Doctor Monro doubts, whether, inſtead of conſidering the brain as the origin of the nerves, we ought not to conſider it merely as connected with the nerves; or whether there are better reaſons for ſuppoſing the brain to produce the nerves, than for ſuppoſing the nerves to produce the brain;---and in order to ſhew that the nerves may exiſt independent of the brain, he ſays, he obſerved in children delivered

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at the full time, plump and well formed in their limbs, a ſubſtance which ſupplied the place of the brain, not more bulky than a ſmall nut, and, inſtead of containing a white medullary ſubſtance, it was of a red colour reſembling a clot of blood; and ſmall cords, occupying the place of the optic nerves were likewiſe of a red colour; yet the ſpinal marrow, and all the nerves from it, had the ordinary ſize and appearance.

We have been taught, that when the brain has been greatly diſturbed, conſiderable alterations of the bile, and diſcharges of it will take place. And that corrupt bile lodging about the præcordia, may conſiderably diſturb

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all the functions of the brain, and excite vertigoes, convulsions, delia, &c. from which it is evident, that a wonderful consent of parts obtains between the head and the præcordia, so that they mutually and powerfully affect each other.

In the above extraordinary case, we find these observations confirmed; for as soon as the patient found his head grow uneasy, or felt any painful sensation about or upon the præcordia, he called for a clyster, which by exciting a bilious discharge, quickly relieved him.

Mr. Bromfield apprehends, that the fear of being treated with unjust and rigorous criticism, or of giving offence to

to men of eſtabliſhed character, has prevented many a modeſt and ingenious man from communicating his remarks to the public.

Notwithſtanding the diſadvantages and oppoſition, which a gentleman has to encounter, who offers his thoughts to the public, I think he ſhould not be alarmed by ſuch conſiderations, but deliver his ſentiments freely and candidly, taking care however to avoid founding new ſyſtems, upon queſtionable hypotheſes.

If a Surgeon ſhould withhold from the world, any thing that may tend to the good of the public, I conceive he does not do his duty; ſince he is

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an agent of ſociety, for the benefit of which he has made his deſignation.

In order to introduce the uſe of opium into practice, which I am perſuaded Mr. Bromfield has done from the moſt liberal and diſintereſted motive, he has made experiments in ſeveral caſes, which were ſucceſsfully treated. From the ſucceſs of opium, and from an attentive conſideration of the nature and cauſe of inflammation, he has been led to alter in ſome meaſure his former opinion, and ſeems to think that inflammations, particularly thoſe ariſing from the injuries of the head, are frequently cauſed by ſpaſm; and that the nerves leading to the muſcular or vaſcular fibres, may be ſo irritated, as to produce ſpaſm.

This

This doctrine, says he, may be worthy of attention; for certainly opium is the most likely remedy to take off spasm, as many of us, I dare say, have experienced in the most threatening case of that sort, the locked jaw. Few will deny, continues he, that opium is a great attenuant of the blood; and that therefore it must give the fairest chance for the absorption of extravasated fluids; and by dividing those detained in the vessels, fit them for future circulation. He quotes Doctor Mead, who told him, that in case women would apply thebaic tincture to their breasts, after contusions from a blow, or other violence received, the extravasated blood would be attenuated and absorbed, and the assistance of the

Surgeon's kife, would rarely be wanted for cancers or external injuries, done to their breaſts. Of the truth of this obſervation I have had many fortunate proofs. As an external application, to painful inflammatory tumours, which ſometimes afflict lying-in women, I am warranted in declaring there cannot be a more powerful reſolvent.

About a fortnight ago, a Lady conſulted me, who had been three weeks brought to bed of her ſecond child; ſhe is in the 24th year of her age and of a healthy habit, in her former lying-in, her breaſt inflamed, ſuppurated, and was a long time painful, and troubleſome to her. There was now a hard lump of about the ſize and form of a turkey egg,

egg, which was moveable, and ſituated a little below the center of her former affected breaſt, unattended with inflammation. I ordered the nurſe to bathe the tumour frequently with a linement compoſed of thebaic tincture, oil, and ſpirits of hartſhorn, and to apply the flaxſeed poultice ſoftened with the linement. The fourth day the part began to impoſtumate, a plentiful ſuppuration ſucceeded, ſo that there is not now a veſtige of the lump, perceivable.

Boerhaave, ſays he, defines inflammations thus:--- "Eſtque ſanguinis rubri arterioſi in minibus canalibus ſtagnantis, pretio et attritus, a motu

reliqui ſanguinis moti, et per febrem fortius acti."

Mr. Bromfield affirms, that Boerhaave, is much miſtaken, for the momentum of the blood being increaſed, from the irritation of the nervous coats of the veſſels, heat will naturally follow, therefore this is as much the effect of obſtruction in the circulation as in the former caſe.

We know, a poſteriori, that ſpaſm is often the conſequence, or effect of obſtruction, inflammation, and fever; and that as the fever increaſes, the irritation of the nervous ſyſtem will alſo increaſe.

Doctor

Doctor Monro found that after he had cut the ſciatic nerve, the member was inſenſible and motionleſs that the circulation of the blood remained for a year thereafter rapid and free in the hind leg of a frog; that when he had broken the bones and wounded the fleſh, an inflammation was excited, and at laſt the wounds were cloſed, with new matter and the broken bones re-united. Yet, ſays he, we have the ſtrongeſt reaſons for believing, that the ſmall veſſels in circulating the blood, in inflammation, and in the production of new matter, are actuated by a nervous energy, which in the caſes before us, could only have been furniſhed to the nerves by the veſſels of the pia mater which incloſe them and the

cineritious

cineritious ſubſtance it produces. Obſervations on the nervous ſyſtem P. 34. ſect the V. the greateſt production of this age.

Extravaſated blood by preſſing upon the brain, excites convulſions, which early and copious bleeding and evacuations have often removed. If theſe precautions are delayed, or totally neglected, putrefaction takes place; or, if any principal blood veſſel is ruptured, we ſhall find, that no remedy or mode of treatment can ever be ſtruck out, *that will prove ſucceſsful in all caſes.*

Van Sweiten thinks it is evident, (ſee his commentary upon the definition which Mr. Bromfield has pronounced erroneous)

roneous) that obſtruction has many things in common with inflammation; but that no inflammation can be conceived without an obſtruction alſo attending; beſides which, a violent obſtruction increaſes the velocity of thoſe juices, which are to paſs through the pervious veſſels, ſo as to occaſions a fever. But ſoon as a fever accompanies the obſtruction, there is then an inflammation, which may therefore be termed an obſtruction with a fever, either in the whole, or only in ſome particular part of the body.

The phænomena, of a concuſſion of the brain, according to the moſt eminent of the profeſſion, are vomitings, vertigo, or apparent rotation of

of the adjacent objects, a total loſs of ſight, hearing, ſmelling, taſting, or feeling; a deep ſleep, a ſtertor, (that is, when the patient forces out the air with the whole action of the breaſt,) palſy, convulſions, deliriums, and ſhiverings. If a lethargic diſpoſition, is an effect of a concuſſion of the brain, upon what principle can opium be given?

Is it not reaſonable to conclude, that in caſes where a lethargic diſpoſition may not happen, it may be induced by opium, and thus the injury of the brain rendered more dangerous and difficult of cure?

Medical Hiſtory abounds with caſes of concuſſion of the brain, attended with

with the worſt ſymptoms, notwithſtanding, ſucceſs has followed a free uſe of the lancett and evacuations, independent of opiates.

Numberleſs, but undeficive arguments, have been adduced on the nature and cauſes of inflammation, obſtruction, ſpaſm, erethiſm, *&c.* by which we find the obſervation of a great man is well founded, viz. that cauſes and effects are ſo intimately connected, and dependant on each other, throughout the ſyſtem of nature, that we every where diſcover a ſeries of energies, which whilſt they are depending on, and derived from their preceding terms, are at the ſame time the cauſes of their ſucceeding ones. But what is the cauſe of all the reſt, which being

ing not the effect of any preceding, may be called the ſource of all, and the firſt term in the ſeries? In contemplating this ſource, the mind is loſt in wonder, and after we are advanced a few ſteps, we find that a cloud obſtructs our further progreſs, and from continuing our enquiry and contemplation, nothing more can be derived, but a conviction of human imbecility, and narrowneſs of our intellectual powers.

If Mr. Bromfield (as it ſhould ſeem) recommends opium upon the principle of its being a great attenuant of the blood, and hence, well calculated to give a fair chance for the abſorption of extravaſated fluids, is it not evident in order to produce ſo material a change

a change in the animal œconomy, that large quantities of opium would be requiſite, and that a few drops of tinctura thæbaica would not have the effect intended by the author with ſufficient expedition.

Opium in general is but a temporary expedient, and does not frequently anſwer the intention of the preſcriber, but often defeats it, and inſtead of procuring reſt, occaſions anxiety, dryneſs of the mouth, a redneſs and itching of the ſkin, lowneſs of ſpirits, difficult reſpiration, and a languid pulſe.

THE END.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

SCROFULA,

POPULARLY, BUT IMPROPERLY CALLED,

THE

KING's-EVIL.

By Jordan Roche.

DUBLIN:

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M,DCC,LXXXIV.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

SCROFULA, &c.

THERE is not a diſeaſe that can be more diſagreeable to the human ſpecies, than that which is popularly called the King's Evil, a diſeaſe, according to the ancients, totius ſubſtantiæ, which has almoſt reſiſted every remedy, that learning and ſkill could deviſe, and ſeems to be gaining ground rapidly.

It

It is extraordinary ſo noxious a diſeaſe has not been better defined. Like nerves in women, and worms in children, it ſerves as a ſanctuary for the ignorance of practitioners, and complaints are frequently pronounced ſcrofulous, or the King's evil which terms do not coevey determinate ideas.

Gentlemen of the faculty ought to be very cautious, in giving their opinion of ſores, ulcers, kernels, and affections of the glands. The idea of the King's evil is extremely exceptionable, and unfounded.

The ſymptoms of a ſcrofula are generally ſaid to be, ſcirrhous tumours ariſing about the neck, and other

ther glandular parts, called alſo ſtrumæ. * The word is Latin, and formed by diminution, from ſcrofa, a ſow. The ſcrofulous infection principally ſettles either on the glandular parts, or the bones; and the diſeaſe appears in little kernels, or lumpy indolent ſwellings, down the ſides of the neck under the chin, in the arm-pits, and about the breaſts; in white indolent ſwellings of the joints of the fingers, wriſts, knees, elbows, and ankles; and running ſores diſcharging a yellow gleety ſanies.

* Strumæ, tumours ariſing moſt uſually on the neck and throat, and commonly called the King's evil; the word is Latin, formed a ſtruendo——ſtructim aſſurgunt ——alſo *koiraides*, ſores.

Scrofulous people are generally of a lax fibre, and relaxed habit; their aſpect in general is pale, their ſkin fair, the eyes vitreous---they are inert, indolent, and if a perſon of a real ſcrofulous habit, receives a ſmall wound, it will not be attended with much pain, or hemorrhagy, nor look florid, as wounds will do in a healthy perſon. Thoſe who have made iſſues in ſcrofulous people muſt have obſerved theſe circumſtances.

Loſs of appetite is ſaid to be a ſymptom importing great depravity of the humours in ſcrofulous habits, and indicates that the pancreas and meſentery are obſtructed, particularly if the parotides are enlarged.

Scro-

Scrofulous people, according to Arbuthnot, can never be duly nourished; for such as have tumours in the parotides often have them in the pancreas and mesentery. The pancreatic juice is necessary to dilute the viscid cystic juice, to mitigate its acrimony, and mix it with the food, to dilute the mass of aliments, and does every other office of the saliva.----

Hallers Phys. p. 360.

The various, and ineffectual methods of treatment, which have been pursued, and recommended by the most learned of the faculty, in order to eradicate the scrofula, is a proof of the obstinacy and inveteracy of the disease.

It has been aſſerted, that the ſcrofula may be acquired, in conſequence of luxury, debauchery and indolence.

Thoſe who lead luxurious, intemperate and indolent lives, and indulge themſelves ſo much even in ſleep, as ſcarce ever to ſee the riſing Sun, loſe the exerciſe of their muſcles, which powerfully contribute to a briſk and free circulation of the blood; therefore digeſtion, and the aſſimilation of the chyle, are more ſlowly and imperfectly performed; hence ſuperfluous and crude humours are created, which either fall upon ſome vital part, or burſt forth in running ſores on different parts of the body; to obviate which the miſerable patients

roam

roam from one phyſician to another, in purſuit of health, which they would wiſh to enjoy without taking pains, or rather the pleaſure to obtain it.

The celebrated Aſtruc, and others, were of opinion that when the ſcrofula accompanied the venereal diſeaſe, it was incurable by mercury, becauſe the ſmall drops of the ſcrofulous infection, ſo intimately lay up in it the fine drops of venereal venom, that they become inacceſſible and invincible, in the ſame manner, as in an amalgama of gold and ſilver, the atoms of the gold are wont to be ſurrounded by the atoms of ſilver, that they can by no means be touched by aqua regia.

This

This analogy does not ſeem to be well founded, ſince there is a material difference between the ſcrofulous and venereal infection, floating in the blood and juices, and acted upon by animal heat, &c. and his amalgama and aqua regia.

Aſtruc diſtinguiſhes between the venereal and ſcrofulous infection; though, he ſays, if the lymph is tainted with the venereal virus, it will produce a ſtagnation in ſeveral conglobate glands, becauſe from its thickneſs it will form obſtructions in the folds of the glands; and from its acrimony it will ſtimulate them to more frequent contractions, by which the paſſage will be ſtopped up; hence therefore it will follow, that the lymphatic glands of

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the neck, axilla, inguina, meſentery, *&c.* from the ſtagnation of the lymph, and indiſpoſition, will grow turgid, and harden into circumſcribed, round glandular ſtrumous tumours, and that the venereal diſeaſe is as changeable as Proteus, and puts on the ſhape of every diſeaſe.

From parents who have been ſeverely afflicted with the venereal diſeaſe, and not radically cured, their children *have* derived complaints, which have been pronounced ſcrofulous.

Nothing gives that which it has not. If an infection can produce another infection, of quite a different nature, it would follow, that the venereal infection was not one independant, but two

different

different infections, which is a manifeſt abſurdity.

Whether the ſcrofula (which is not ſo common as people imagine) is an effect of the venereal diſeaſe, is a queſtion that has been much diſputed. Gentlemen ought to be very cautious in aſcribing effects to cauſes that exiſted at a remote period.

Experience confirms that an infection will produce different effects in different conſtitutions; yet it is evident every effect ariſing from it proceeds from one and the ſame cauſe.

In

In conſequence of the improvements which have been made upon mercury, and its general uſe, we find that the venereal diſeaſe does not now produce ſuch dreadful ſymptoms as have been repreſented by phyſicians a few years ago, and that in conſequence of the improved and more general uſe of mercury, the leproſy is now hardly known among us.

There were in Chriſtendom about 200 years ago 1500 Hoſpitals for lepers.

Before the uſe of mercury was diſcovered, the venereal diſeaſe muſt have made great havoc in the human ſpecies;

ſpecies; as it could not have been radically cured, at leaſt we know of no ſimples that will have that effect.

It appears reaſonable to conclude, that the venereal diſeaſe was coeval with ſociety, and that it has been a diſeaſe ariſing from the abuſe of venery, and promiſcuous embrace.

The Kings of England and France for a long time *pretended* to the privilege of curing the King's evil by touching; and ſome pious people to this day, ſay, they diſpenſe the *royal blood* for the cure of the *King's evil*, which they allledge will have the wiſhed for effect.

The

The right or faculty, 'tis ſaid, was originally inherent in the French Kings; for that thoſe of England only *claimed* it as an appendage, or appurtenant to that Crown to which they had a claim.

Stephen de Conti, a religious Corbie, who lived in the year 1400, and wrote a Hiſtory of France, ſtill preſerved in M S, in the library of St. Germains des prez, deſcribes the practice of touching for the evil. After the King had heard maſs, a veſſel of water was brought him, and his Majeſty, having put up his prayers before the altar, touched the diſeaſed part with his hand, and waſhed it with water.

Raoul

Raoul de Pruelles, addreſſing his tranſlation of St. Auguſtin, de Civitate Dei, to Ch. V. France, ſays expreſsly: "*Vos devanciers, & vous avez telle vertu & puiſſance, que vous eſt donnee & attribuee de Dieu, que vous faites miracles en votre vie, telles, ſi grandes & ſi apertes, que vous garriſſes d'une tres horrible maladie que s' appelle les eſcrouelles (i. e. the King's Evil) de laquelle nul autre prince terrein ne peut garir hors vous.*

Much judgment and experience are neceſſary to diſtinguiſh the ſcrofula, from the effects of other diſorders;-------A ſwelling of the upper lip, and an enlargement of the parotides, are ſaid to be pathognomonic ſigns.

In the firſt Volume of the London Medical Obſervations, P. 184, there are a few caſes of ſcrofulous complaints, by John Fordyce. M. D. which have been conſiderably improved by means of the cortex, which reſolved tumefied glands without ſuppuration.

In Vol. 2. P. 265 of the above Obſervations, there are two caſes communicated by Doctor Bond of Philadelphia, which were ſucceſsfully treated, by perſiſting in the uſe of the bark, though ſalivation had failed.

Doctor Fothergill in Vol. I. ſays, that the bark put a ſtop to the progreſs

progreſs of tumours of the parotid glands; in one caſe in particular, he ſays, the bark ſoftened the tumours,----that he met with many other caſes, in which the bark has had the like effects; checked the ſpeedy progreſs of the diſeaſe, reſtored a better ſtate of health in various reſpects, and laid a proper foundation to proceed upon, in attempting to cure by other methods.

He acknowledges that he made uſe of the bark in ſcrofulous ulcers, but hitherto not with the ſucceſs one might expect, though he has aſſiſted it with calomel and ſulphur auratum antimonii.

This

This learned Phyſician obſerves, that all internal remedies given by the mouth, and deſigned to act beyond the ſtomach, muſt be expoſed to the efficacy of the powers, by which digeſtion is performed: it is therefore incumbent upon the Preſcriber to conſider, how far the virtues of the medicines, he gives, are liable to be affected in their tranſit to the parts where he is deſirous they ſhould act. Moſt of the ſaline remedies are liable to great alterations in the ſtomach. Alkaline and acid ſalts may become neutral and ſaponaceous; neutral ones may be diluted, and diſpoſed to run off immediately by the emunctories, and all of them contribute as little towards eradicating the ſcrofula, as they

they do towards effecting the change, we call digeſtion; a change whereby ſubſtances very remote from it, are converted into an animal nature.

And it ſeems to him, in the cure of all chronic complaints, however diſtant their ſeat may be from the ſtomach, thoſe will have the greateſt ſucceſs, who attentively conſider the preſent ſtate of this organ; who remove every obſtruction to its performing the office of digeſtion with eaſe, conſtancy and expedition; for if digeſtion is well performed, the chyle is proper, the blood, produced from this chyle, is natural, the ſecretions will be regular, diſeaſe will vaniſh, and health and activity enſue. If digeſtion is weak, the contra-

ry

ry happens, in ſpite of the beſt ſpecifics, unleſs one part of their virtues be to reſtore the injured faculties of digeſtion to their priſtine and natural ſtate.

And from the moſt attentive conſideration of the cure of many chronic complaints, and the moſt unprejudiced diſquiſition, what ſhare the medicines applied have had in effecting ſuch cures; by much the greateſt part of theſe diſtempers ſeem to have been removed, rather in conſequence of the medicines given, having had a certain effect on the ſtomach, and thereby enabling nature to perform her own office, than by any ſpecific operations on the particular ſeat

of the diſtemper. See Vol. 2. Fothergill's works, where thoſe, who cram their patients with medicines ſingula hora, quovis momento, will find they do not do juſtice to their patients.

A few years ago a young man applied to me, to be cured of the lues venerea, which was accompanied with a ſcrofulous habit:---his upper lip was ſwelled, his parotides were enlarged, and there were cicatrices of old ſores on many parts of his body.

In conſequence of ſmall mercurial inunctions, aided by the warm bath, he was perfectly cured of the lues and ſcrofula.-----He concluded his

his courſe with a decoction of ſarſaparilla and milk.

The ſucceſs of this caſe determined me on giving ſmall mercurial inunctions, warm bath, with the occaſional uſe of calomel, and the bark to aid the appetite, a fair trial, in ſuch ſcrofulous caſes as might occur.

The bark I have often given according to Doctor M'Bride, ſee his Eſſay, p. 189.

CASE I.

A lad was brought to me a few years ago. The globe of his left eye was more protuberant than that of his

right eye. There was an ulcer juſt over the external canthus of the affected eye. The parotides were affected. He had taken a great deal of medicine, recommended by different people. He reſigned himſelf to an extended courſe of mercurial inunction, and reſtoratives—in conſequence of which, he recovered, and has continued ſince in vigorous health.

Doctor Aſtruc was of opinion, that if the lues be attended with an enlarged parotid, tis incurable by ſalivation.

'Tis evident, that by inducing a ſalival flux, much inconvenience and danger will ariſe, when the parotides are enlarged: But ſmall mercurial

curial inunctions, judiciouſly conducted, will not be attended with any inconvenience to the maxillary, ſalivary, or parotid glands.

CASE II.

A girl in the 13th year of her age, was brought to the work-houſe for the aſſiſtance of Gentlemen attending there. The anterior part of the tibia was bare, from within two inches of the knee, to nearly the ſame diſtance from the ankle; the bone was of a blackiſh yellow colour, full of holes ---the circumſcribing ulcer was very foul, and diſcharged a yellowiſh thin ſanies. On the upper, and internal part of her thigh there was an indolent tumour.

tumour. She was pale and (if I may be allowed the phraſe) of a ſcrofulous aſpect. Her mother informed me the gentelmen propoſed amputation.

In conſequence of mercurial inunctions, calomel, and the bark, the bone ſeparated, and the girl recovered a good conſtitution.

CASE III.

A woman in the laſt month of geſtation applied to me on account of the lues, which ſhe contracted from her huſband ſome time before. I put her

her upon the ſolution * with the intent of palliating her complaints, until ſhe would be able to ſuſtain an effectual courſe. The ſolution, with decoction of guaiacum, cured her. Her infant had a white ſwelling of its wriſt, and its eyes were tender. The child recovered, being put upon the breaſt of a healthy woman, who took ſome alteratives.

CASE IV.

A woman in this town, in the 25th year of her age, and fifth month

* R. mercur. cor. ſublim. gr. quatuor, ſpir. vin. Gallici uncias octo, ol. ſaſſafr. ſemidrachmam. miſce. fiat ſolutio.

month of geſtation, applied to me. There was an encyſted tumour in the internal canthus of each eye. Her eyes were blood-ſhot, and the tears eſcaped inceſſantly down her cheeks. There was an indolent tumour on the back of her neck. I put her upon a courſe of calomel, decoctions of the woods, and brought the tumours to ſuppuration, and ſhe perfectly recovered.

CASE V.

A married man of a remarkably good character, put himſelf under my care. A fleſhy excreſcence occupied one ſide of his noſe; there was an exoſtoſis upon the middle and anteri-

or

or part of each tibia, and matter was ſlowly forming upon each. Upon one of his ſhoulders there were three ſinuous ulcers, and upon the ſuperior part of the os frontale there was an ulcer; through it my probe dropped upon the denuded bone. He had been a long time taking medicines, notwithſtanding his complaints were gaining upon him. He was not now able to perſevere in his uſual active way of life, wherefore he ſubmitted to be confined. In conſequence of mercurial inunctions, the warm bath, and reſtoratives, he recovered perfect health, and has uninterruptedly enjoyed it ſince, which is about ſix years.

This caſe ſhewed ſome characteriſtics of a venereal taint; but I am per-

perſuaded he was free from it; his wife had no complaint, nor has had any ſymptom that could juſtify an idea of the kind ſince.

CASE VI.

A Gentleman ſent to me from Hammontown, a young man, who had upon the forepart, and baſis of his neck, two large running ſores, or ulcers, of conſiderable duration. There was alſo one upon the upper part of his breaſt, cloſe to the right clavicle. His upper lip was enlarged and thick ---by the uſe of mercurial inunctions he was cured.

I have

I have had many cafes of the above nature under my care, which were fuccefsfully treated, though the neck was full of running fores--- the parotides enlarged, as alfo tumours of the breaft, which with difficulty came to fuppuration, when they could not be otherwife refolved. In the courfe of fuppuration the lips often became dry, and callous, turning black, and fometimes blue. Suddenly a tumour was formed in the fide, and came quickly to fuppuration, and continued to difcharge a long time. In the courfe of inunction, it is not uncommon for a large tumour to fuddenly appear upon the forehead, and different parts of the head, and in a few hours to vanifh, and return no more.

There

There are few (according to Doctor Fothergill) who are converſant in the practice of Phyſic, who do not find occaſion, at one time or other, to be diſſatisfied with the ſeveral methods and medicines hitherto recommended in the cure of the ſcrofula.

A ſwelled lip, a blood-ſhot eye, will frequently baffle a courſe of efficacious remedies under prudent directions. When the diſeaſe is farther advanced, it grows more obſtinate, the greater the number of parts that are affected, the more the difficulties are increaſed. We have indeed a copious choice of alteratives handed down to us, all which, perhaps, have been in particular inſtances, beneficial, but nevertheleſs they too often diſappoint

diſappoint us. Moſt of the remedies propoſed for this diſtemper, are ſuch as ſeem recommended more with a view to alter the juices, than immediately to affect the ſolids: but we know much leſs of the nature of fluids circulating in an animal body, or how to alter them, than we do how to apply ſuch medicines as affect the ſolids, and in conſequence thereof, produce certain alterations in the fluids.

It is not ſafe to infer, that the various kinds of ſalts have the ſame effects upon animal juices, whether taken from the animal, or circulating in their proper canals. Experience does not always warrant ſuch concluſions. The digeſtive powers of the

ſtomach,

ſtomach, by the ſame means that they convert different ſorts of aliments, ſome of them ſufficiently acrid, into a mild and milky fluid, ſeem able to deprive the moſt pungent ſalts of great part of their activity: and this circumſtance alone, in my opinion, (ſays Doctor Fothergill) renders a dependence upon one part of the materia medica, on which many pleaſing expectations have been formed, much to be ſuſpected; I mean the different kinds of ſalts recommended in ſtrumous diſorders. It is very certain that the effects of the acid and alkaline greatly depend on the preſent diſpoſition of the juices in the ſtomach and firſt paſſages. The neutral ones are not altogether exempt from the

ſame

ſame influence; and ſhould they paſs unaltered into the blood, we cannot aſcertain their effects upon it: and could we even do this, can it reaſonably be ſuppoſed, that a few drams of any kind of ſalt, however active, and properly adapted, mixed with ſo many pounds of blood, and other animal juices, could produce the effect we wiſh for, or be able to extirpate a diſeaſe, as the ancients expreſſed themſelves, totius ſubſtantiæ, and fixed in the moſt inacceſſible parts of the animal œeconomy? The chance, therefore, of curing this diſtemper, by means of remedies deſigned to act on the fluids alone, is but little. It may indeed be urged, that ſalts, as ſtimulants, affect the ſolids as well as the fluids; and

that

that they may do ſo is granted: but in this caſe their operation is much confined; for it may be doubted, whether their ſtimulus extends beyond the firſt paſſages.

The aſpect, habit, and age of ſtrumous perſons; the nature of their tumours, in reſpect to their formation, progreſs, and iſſue, ſeem to indicate a general laxity of the ſolids as well as great viſcidity of the fluids, eſpecially thoſe contained in ſome particular ſeries of veſſels; which cauſes, when combined, proceed with a ſlow but conſtant efficacy to produce the worſt of miſchiefs, unleſs prevented by the interpoſition of ſome favourable change in the non-naturals, or by medical aſſiſtance.

It

It may indeed be diſputed, whether the ſolids being firſt relaxed, the fluids do not become viſcid, and unfit for their office, in conſequence of this relaxation; or whether the juices are not firſt vitiated, and from them a laxity of the ſolids is inevitably derived. Caſes may happen, in which one or the other of theſe ſuppoſitions may, with great probability, be admitted; but in either caſe, ſince it ſeems beyond diſpute, that the power of affecting the ſolids, is more under our command than that of altering the fluids, it is reaſonable to direct our applications in the cure of this diſtemper more immediately to the ſolids, as, without their aſſiſtance, the fluids muſt ſtill remain in a morbid condition.

I have the pleaſure of being acquainted with many young people, who are ſound, active, and ſtrong, but were miſerable objects when children, afflicted with eruptions, ſore eyes, and their necks beſet with lumps, kernels, and running ſores upon different parts of their bodies, notwithſtanding, from proper regimen, air and exerciſe, they grew into perfect health.

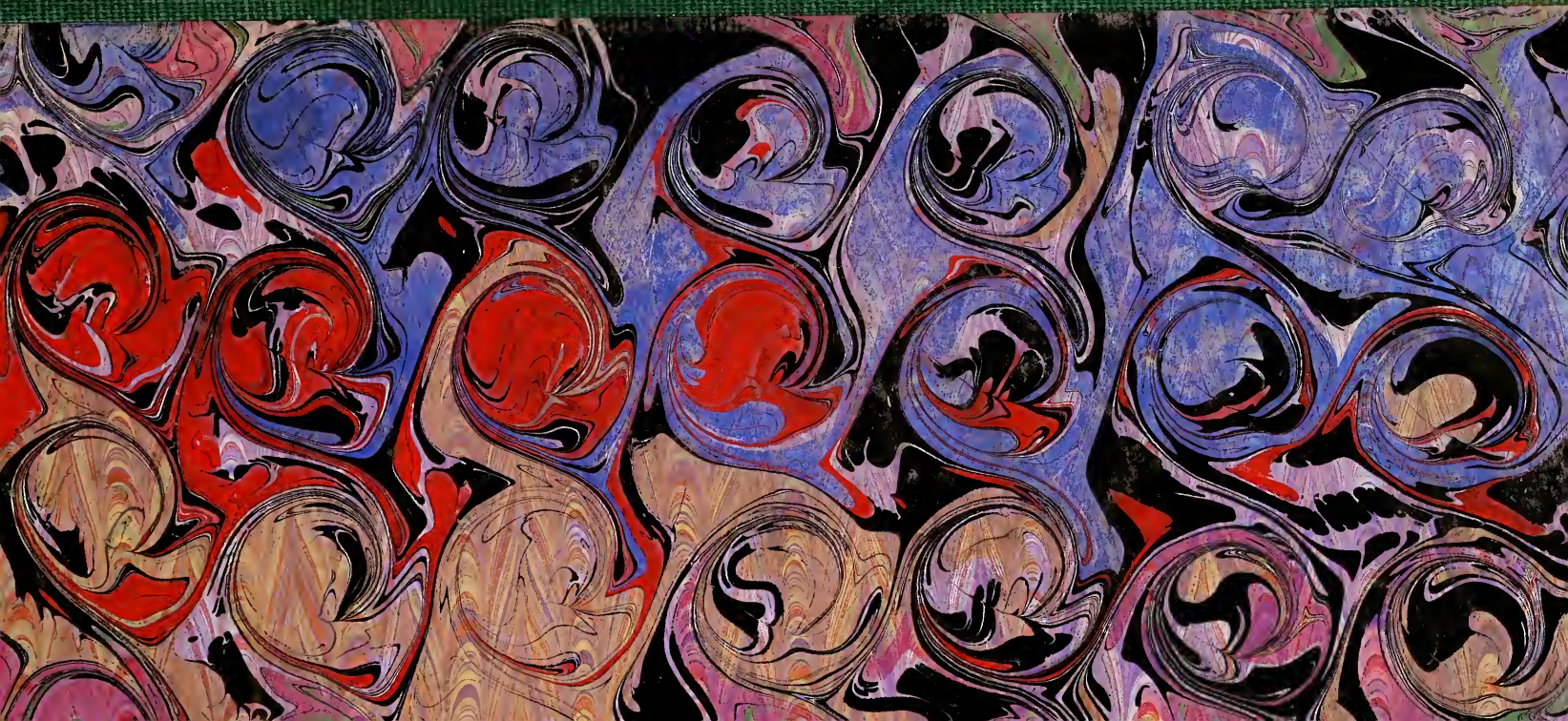
Parents, who indulge their children in indolence and luxury, and pay them a too tender and officious attention, particularly, in cramming them with manna, magneſia, rhubarb, and the various fatagos every where extolled and recommended, ought to be informed that they are the Authors of an evil,

and

and a very great one. They ſhould know, that they thus nip the bud, impair the ſtamina, and lay the foundation of diſeaſe, and of every misfortune that can flow from it.

When a proper regimen in point of diet, air and exerciſe are neglected, medicine will prove a wretched ſubſtitute.

It is well known that the foundation of much evil has been eſtabliſhed on the breaſt; hence, care in the choice and management of nurſes cannot be too great. The wiſeſt and moſt ſkilled in nature agree, that women ſhould foſter their fleſh and blood, with the natural nouriſhment ſupplied by Providence. Their

Their arguments are irrefiftible in fupport of this opinion; from which alfo it is evident, mothers would be amply rewarded in health, eafe of mind, and longevity for doing their duty.

THE END.